



How Should We Interpret the Bible?

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As Christians, the Bible is the foundation of our faith and the primary source of God's revelation to us. However, interpreting the Scriptures can be a complex and nuanced task that requires humility, wisdom, and a deep dependence on the Holy Spirit. We must resist the temptation to approach the Bible through the lens of human reason and rationalism, and instead submit to the illumination and guidance of the divine Author.

The Limitations of Human Reason

In our modern, secular world, there is a growing tendency to rely on human reason and intellect as the primary means of understanding and interpreting the Bible. We may be tempted to approach the Scriptures with the same analytical, scientific mindset that we apply to other areas of life. However, the apostle Paul warns us that *"the person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit"* ([1 Corinthians 2:14](#)).

Our own fallen human nature and limited understanding make us incapable of truly grasping the deep spiritual truths found in God's Word. As [Isaiah 55:8-9](#) reminds us, *"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,"* declares the Lord. *"As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."* Relying solely on human reason and rationalism will only lead to a distorted and incomplete understanding of the Bible.

The Vital Role of the Holy Spirit

Instead, we must approach the Scriptures with a deep dependence on the illumination and guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the Spirit within us who *"will guide you into all the truth"* ([John 16:13](#)) and who *"teaches you all things and reminds you of everything I have said to you"* ([John 14:26](#)).

Without the work of the Holy Spirit in our hearts and minds, we will inevitably struggle to properly interpret and apply the Scriptures. As Jesus said, *"The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life"* ([John 6:63](#)). Our own human efforts and abilities are not sufficient to please God or to produce the kind of spiritual transformation He desires in our lives.

Relying on the Holy Spirit for Transformation

The Scriptures make it clear that our good works and human endeavors are not what please God or lead to true, lasting change. As [Ephesians 2:10](#) states, *"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."* It is only through the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit that we can live in a way that honors God and bears the fruit of the Spirit ([Galatians 5:22-23](#)). Our human nature, with all its flaws and limitations, cannot produce the kind of righteousness and holiness that God desires. It is only as we surrender our lives to the transformative work of the Holy Spirit that we can truly live in a way that pleases the Lord. As the prophet Zechariah proclaimed, *"Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit," says the Lord Almighty*" ([Zechariah 4:6](#)).

Interpreting the Bible with Humility and Wisdom

As we approach the study of God's Word, may we do so with reverence, humility, and a deep dependence on the Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth ([John 16:13](#)). We must resist the temptation to rely on our own human reason and rationalism, and instead submit to the illumination and power of the divine Author. Through careful, prayerful examination of the Scriptures, empowered by the Spirit, may we grow in our understanding of God's character and purposes, and be equipped to live out the principles of the Christian faith in our daily lives, not through our own efforts, but through the power and leading of the Holy Spirit.

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